

Today: Preparation for ACM ICPC

- Review problems from last Friday
<http://mcpc.cigas.net/archives/2008/mcpc2008/browse.html>
- Contest strategies
- What help will benefit you the most over the next two weeks?
- Practice contest schedule
 - Lab conflict tomorrow night: B148 & B158 booked; try B131 or B160 (Windows)?
- Today: Team and/or pair programming

Contest Strategies (1)

- Rules reminders
 - Winner is team that solves the most problems
 - Ties broken by smallest total of...
 - Minutes to each correct solution +
 - Failed attempts * 20
 - Note:
 - No penalty assigned if problem not solved
 - But, solving N problems always better than solving N-1
 - 30 minute pre-start time for entering templates

Contest Strategies (2)

- Create summary sheet for problems.
- Typical information...
 - Letter
 - Title
 - Category
 - Difficulty
 - Who
 - Done

Contest Strategies (3)

- Do easiest problem(s) first; have someone else re-do if failing
- Watch competition scoreboard to identify easy problems
- Avoid wrong answers: costs 20 minutes per failure

Contest Strategies (4)

- Make sure computer is well used
 - Enter templates early
 - Enter skeleton for problems (e.g., input parsing)
 - Debug off-line (get printed listing)
- Create test cases; check carefully
- Use pair programming
- Consider roles: algorist, coder, debugger
- Relax

Today's Problems: Backtracking

- 110801: Little Bishops
- 110802: 15-Puzzle Problem
- 110803: Queue
- 110806: Garden of Eden

And Geometry, for Arman...

- 111303: The Knights of the Round Table
- 111308: How Big Is It?

Upcoming Schedule

- Oct 20 – Backtracking
- Oct 27 – Graph Traversal (Zhanibek)
- Nov 3 – Graph Algorithms (Atallah?)
- Nov 10 – Dynamic Programming
- Nov 17 – Grids
- Nov 24 – no class